

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN EA-10

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON:JY

APPROVED BY EA/LC:JDROSENTHAL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 160990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, LA

SUBJECT: TERMINATION PAYMENT FOR WORLD VISION EMPLOYEES

REF: VIENTIANE 4634

1. DESK OFFICER SPOKE AGAIN WITH WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR GRAHAM IRVINE WHO HAD SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE QUESTION OF TERMINATION PAYMENT. IRVINE SAID HE HAD CABLED PHENG PHONGSAVAN ON JUNE 27 REGRETTING WORLD VISION'S HAVING TAKEN ACTION TO STOP THE 13,128 DOLS CHECK, BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, ASSERTING THAT THE ORGANIZATION FELT IT HAD MET ALL OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS LAO EMPLOYEES. IRVINE SAID HE ASKED PHENG TO PROVIDE HIM ANY EVIDENCE HE HAD TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CLAIMS OF WORLD VISION'S EMPLOYEES FOR THE 13,128 DOLS.

2. IRVINE SAID THE ORGANIZATION WAS 'ANXIOUS TO MEET BOTH LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS BUT IS NOT WILLING TO BE RIPPED OFF.' HE SAID THE CHECK PROBLEM WAS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND HE REGRETTEED THE TROUBLE WORLD VISION'S ACTIONS HAD CAUSED. IRVINE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CASE WAS BY NO MEANS CLOSED AND WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY WORLD VISION IN THE END MAY HAVE TO PAY THE MONEY CLAIMED.

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3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM CONVERSATION WITH IRVINE
THAT WORLD VISION IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WAY
IT EXITED LAOS. BELIEVE AT THIS POINT IT IS APPROPRIATE
TO LET IRVINE DEAL DIRECTLY WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY FOR
THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE GIVEN HIS APPARENT CHANGE OF
HEART. INGERSOLL

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